

Guidance on the use of Title I funds in RTI from the book; *The New Title I: The Changing Landscape of Accountability* (July 2011)

"As interest in the RTI approach has spread, it has been common for administrators to ask, "May I use federal funds to pay for RTI? Framing the issue in these terms, however, does not lead to consideration of all the necessary factors in determining if this is an allowable Title I cost. Rather, an administrator should turn the question around and ask, "Can RTI be part of my Title I program? Framing the inquiry in the context of whether RTI is an appropriate component of the larger Title I program requires the administrator to ask the following questions:

1. What type of Title I program is it: targeted assistance or school-wide?
2. Is the student who is receiving the RTI instruction an eligible student under the Title I program?
3. Does RTI meet the requirements to be a component of the relevant Title I program?
4. Is the RTI instruction supplemental to what non-eligible children in the school receive?
5. In this context, may Title I funds be used to pay for this RTI service?

If the Title I program is schoolwide, questions 2-5 become irrelevant as long as the RTI system is included in the schoolwide plan. If the program is a targeted assistance program, administrators would proceed systematically through the rest of the questions to determine if Title I funds may be spent for RTI."

Specific examples:

Universal Screening would not be an allowed use of Title I funds since those funds are not providing services that supplement the services that LEAS and schools would otherwise provide.

Progress Monitoring – To the extent that progress monitoring is used to determine the response to an intervention that is supportable with Title I, it is an allowable use of those funds. If progress monitoring is supporting an intervention that is not an allowable use of funds (i.e., service to the general population), then the cost of progress monitoring could not be supported with Title I funds.